

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office action dated January 29, 2007, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-7 and 10-16 are pending in the present Application. Claim 12 is amended and Claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice, leaving Claims 1, 3-7, 10-12 and 14-16 for consideration upon entry of the present amendments and following remarks.

Support for the claim amendments is at least found in the specification, the figures, and the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 11 and 16 are allowable.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's noting the allowable subject matter of Claim 13 and hereinabove amends Claim 12 to include all of the limitations of Claim 13. Claim 13 is accordingly cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of amended Claim 12 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102 and §103

Claims 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oliver et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,455,840, hereinafter "Oliver").

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oliver.

As discussed above, Claim 12 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of now cancelled Claim 13. Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 12 is allowable. Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 12, are not further rejected or objected and are correspondingly allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 12, 14 and 15 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

Applicant hereby petitions for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 29, 2007